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ROER RIVER FIGHTING INCREASES IN TEMPO; ALLIES RUSH TROOPS

Stiff Battles for Duren, Julich Continue—German Counter-Attacks Effective

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—The battle on both sides of the Roer River is increasing in ferocity with Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery rushing further reinforcements to the front. Dramatic duels are being fought between the German artillery and American engineers at the river crossings where many bridges were destroyed by shells as soon as they were completed. Street fighting for possession of Duren and Julich continues with the Germans defending Duren particularly stubbornly.

Seventy tanks of the 1st American army attacked north of Duren. Giant tank battle is raging north and south of the town. The American tanks tried to encircle Duren, but the Germans threw back the Americans from the southeast district of [illegible] in the evening. In the early part of the night, tanks of the 1st American army advanced from Duren along the Roer on the north fringe of Niederau but the German counterthrust threw back the attackers with large losses. The Germans knocked out 25 tanks on the first two days of the battle near Niederau.

The battle on the Roer River has not yet passed its first stage. The 9th and 1st American armies have not yet been able to form a consecutive bridgehead on the other side of the river. Only after this has been accomplished can General Dwight Eisenhower use his tank corps which are now being kept in readiness. On the upper reaches of the Roer General Hodges has not yet launched bigger attacks. Attempts at crossing are, however, to be expected in this area.

In the battle between the Meuse and the lower Rhine the 1st Canadian army is continuing its attempts to break through on the road from Goch to Weeze. Anglo-American losses are estimated at 10,000 during the past 15 days. The German artillery in this section is a defensive weapon par excellence. Reports have just been received that one British tank brigade and one British infantry regiment were shattered by artillery fire when they were about to attack.

East of Linnich American tank formations pushed forward temporarily toward Muertz after a grim struggle. The German tank grenadiers launched a counterattack when the Americans believed that the town was already in their hands. In the immediate proximity the Germans knocked out ten American tanks with rocket weapons and drove back the Americans toward the west. From Niederzier American tanks advanced through an open strip of Hombacher forest two kilometers on the road to [illegible] up to 500 meters north of Weidenhof. The Germans here have launched a counterattack.

On the north wing of the Aachen sector the Germans during the night repelled with concentrated fire all American attempts to cross the Roer near Rathcim. Grim fighting went on in the area of Doveren-Hueckelshoven till late at night. A tank duel which began yesterday on the Julich-Mersch road was decided in favor of the German Tiger tanks. The American attack on Mersch was repulsed. Parts of the 9th American army penetrated into Doveren northeast of Hilfarth with 27 tanks and infantry forces. When dusk set in fighting raged for each house.

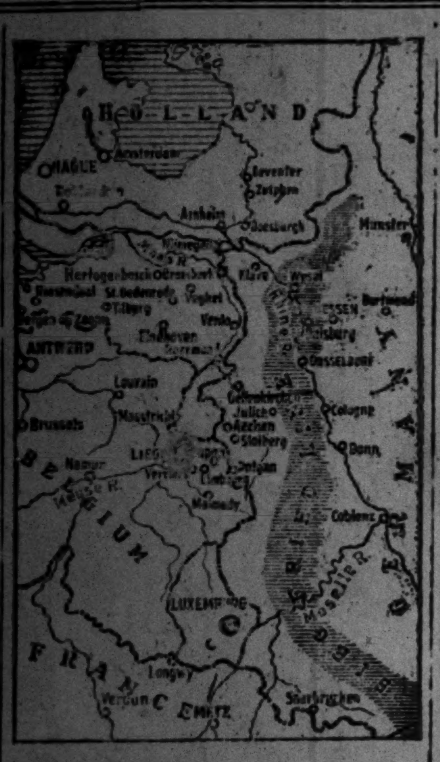
On the Pruem front parts of the [illegible] American army tried in vain to [illegible] at several points across the [illegible] toward the east.

The German troops blasted a new part of the Urft Dam. By this measure the level of the Roer is rising again and flooding anew the fighting area south of the Roer. It is to be assumed that renewed opening of the dam will bring considerable difficulties to Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

U.S. Army Casualties Bared

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 25.—Henry [illegible], U.S. Secretary of War, has [illegible] that the casualties suffered by the American Army in all theaters of war since the start of the war to February 14 total more than 711,000 including 138,000 killed, [illegible] wounded, 92,000 missing, and the remainder war prisoners, says a Washington report.



GERMAN TROOPS SMASH SOVIET GRAN BRIDGEHEAD

Base for Attack on Vienna Destroyed; Bridge on Frankfurt On Oder Demolished

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—Four thousand and five hundred Soviet soldiers fell in the course of mopping up the remainder of the Gran bridgehead east of Komorn, it was announced today. Fighting in this section ended yesterday morning when the last Soviet base in the locality of Kemend was overpowered.

According to reports thus far on hand a mass of four Soviet divisions was shattered. The Germans captured 98 tanks, 259 guns and large quantities of further war material and ammunition. The most important result of the German success, however, is that this base for the Soviet attack on the Bratislavia and Vienna area has been completely shattered.

Fighters and battleplanes of the Luftwaffe disturbed or prevented the Soviet formations from crossing the Oder by continual attacks. A Soviet bridge being constructed south of Frankfurt on Oder was attacked by German battleplanes and destroyed by direct bomb hits. Accompanying German fighters prevented all Soviet attempts of frustrating the German air attacks.

FAILS TO UP WAR OUTPUT

Chaotic Conditions Hinder Operation Of Chiang's WPB

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—There is increased evidence that there is nothing substantial to support the reports the agents of the American and Chungking Governments have of late been disseminating that an increase of the output of war materials has been realized by the Wartime Production Board brought into being in Chungking at the proposal of Donald M. Nelson, personal envoy of President Roosevelt.

The aggravation of the situation caused by inflation in areas under Chungking's control and other conditions with which the Chungking regime is faced are believed to be responsible for the failure of the Wartime Production Board to make results.

An influential industrial company in which the Chungking regime is interested, according to a Chungking dispatch, yesterday sought to enlist the active assistance of the regime in the struggle it has been making to carry on in the face of the rapid increase of prices, above all those of materials of vital necessity to it.

It was revealed by the company that the price of coal has increased 555 times in relation to other prices since the days immediately preceding the war, that of rice 538 times, and that of clothing 4,459 times.

Describes Gloom in London

Domei

STOCKHOLM, February 25.—Considerable shortage of all kinds of goods in London is the result of German V-arm fires declared Chairman Limbourg of a Swedish organization in London in a report which was read over the Swedish radio on Saturday night. The report points out that the damage done by flying bombs is serious and it is hardly imaginable how the people could live under such conditions. The dreariest aspect is the thousands of Londoners who are making underground railways their abodes for the night although their houses are not yet destroyed.

U.S. WAR PRODUCTION IN JANUARY IS BEHIND

2 Per Cent off Schedule; Manpower Shortage Now Affecting Output in General

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 25.—The United States War Production Board announced today that production in January was one per cent behind December and two per cent behind schedule, according to a dispatch from Washington.

The Board announced that now for the first time in several months the manpower shortage was a problem that affected war production in general. Heretofore, it was said, it has been a problem only in specific parts of production.

In the major munitions categories, only aircraft producers exceeded schedules in January. Ships, guns, and military vehicles not only lagged behind goals but were behind the December output.

Garfield Batcheller, the War Production Board's Chief of Operations, said that more important than the January loss of munitions is the potential threat for months ahead brought by last month's slump in steel and materials production. That was due, he said, to the most severe weather since 1918 with consequent shortages of coal, gas, labor and transportation.

Meanwhile in Washington, the manpower "Work or Fight" bill was condemned today by a number of Senators. One Senator, who owns a big war plant in Minneapolis, contended that the labor shortage, if any, or rather if there is a labor shortage, then the blame falls equally on management, government and labor. As his reasons, he gave poor management, poor location of new war plants, hoarding of labor by big industries, hoarding of labor on the part of the government, production slow downs by war worker agreements, and unfair wage ceilings in different factories.

B-29 Workers Strike

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—Production of parts for B-29 bombers, anti-aircraft guns, rockets and tanks in the Dodge main plant of the Chrysler Corporation was interrupted today by a spreading strike following the discharge of seven workers in the bomber parts department, according to a dispatch from Detroit.

A company spokesman reported that shortly before noon 6,788 workers had left their jobs, the dispatch continued. He is reported to have said that the seven men had been discharged for refusing to maintain the scheduled production on an automatic gear cutting machine.

Approximately 13,000 workers are employed in the Dodge main plant and fears were expressed by the company representatives that the entire plant might be shut down before night, the dispatch further disclosed.

Charges by the company that the strike was "carefully organized" and was "designed to paralyze the manufacture of B-29 engines" were not immediately answered by the United Automobile Workers (CIO), of which the strikers are members, the dispatch concluded.

SOVIET WRITER SUCCUMBS

Tolstoy, Twice Winner of Stalin Prize, Dies at 62

Domei

MOSCOW, February 24.—The death of Aleksyey Nikolaevich Tolstoy, famous Soviet writer, today at the age of 62, was announced by the Soviet Government. The great writer was born of a noble family in Samara in 1882, and he appeared first in the Russian literary field as a poet. Later he became famous for his prose works.

In the First World War he participated as a war correspondent. After the October Revolution, he went abroad for a certain period, but soon returning home, he made public many of his famous works, including "Peter I," a great historic novel, which made him the literary leader in the Soviet Union after the demise of Maxim Gorky. Twice he won the Stalin prize.

Churchill Backs Reds

Domei

GENEVA, February 25.—At each meeting with Premier Josef Stalin a sympathetic understanding with the Bolshevist points of view and admiration for the Soviet achievements was expressed by Prime Minister Churchill, writes Alistair Forbes in the Daily Mail. He added, however, that nothing indicated that Premier Stalin was showing nearly as much understanding for the British points of view.

Two Japanese Officers Cited For Valiant Action in Burma

Acting Garrison Commander Manabe who Defended Lhameng to the Last and Staff Officer Tsuji Honored by Lieutenant General Kimura

The granting of citations to Colonel Masanobu Tsuji who has been rendering meritorious services as a Staff Officer in the Burma war area, and Captain Kunihito Manabe who defended Lhameng to the last as an acting Garrison Commander, has now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor, the War Ministry announced on Monday.

The War Ministry's announcement follows:

"Citations had previously been granted to Colonel Masanobu Tsuji who has been rendering meritorious military services as a Staff Officer in operations in the Burma area and Captain Kunihito Manabe who, as the acting Garrison Commander at Lhameng had defended that point to the last, and these facts have now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor."

CITATION

Staff Officer Colonel Masanobu Tsuji

The above using all his resources has been contributing toward the execution of the operations in supporting the Unit Commander since July, 1944. At the time when the operations had reached an important turning point, he fought gallantly where the fighting was at its fiercest and personally contrived to develop the war situation in favor of our forces thereby bringing fruitful results to our strategy. His contribution to future operations was extremely great.

This is the result of the noble character, skill, and burning fighting spirit of Colonel Tsuji who thoroughly manifested loyalty and patriotism transcending life and death. His military achievements are outstanding and he is a model for Staff Officers of the Imperial Forces. Wherefore a citation is hereby issued.

February 13, 1945,
HEITARO KIMURA,
Supreme Commander of the Japanese Army Forces in the Burma Area.

CITATION

Captain Kunihito Manabe

The above, at the outset of guerilla warfare launched against the enemy's Yunnan Expeditionary Forces in May, 1944, was wounded in the vicinity of Siaochai on the bank of the Nu River and was ordered to return to Lhameng on June 3. At this time it happened that a large force of enemy troops started their attacks on Lhameng and the above, assisting Major Kanemitsu, Commander of the Japanese Garrison at Lhameng, took command of the Infantry Unit which formed the nucleus of the Garrison and successfully repulsed severe enemy assaults on land and in the air.

By timely changes of battle positions, the above frustrated hostile offensives and by daring closing-in attacks into enemy positions, the Units under him struck terror into the heart of the enemy. During 100 days of siege which are characterized by the most embittered fighting, the above successfully held to his post thus fulfilling his mission.

As the war situation became more strained with the advent of September, the above took command of the entire Garrison in place of Garrison Commander Major Kanemitsu who fell under a hail of enemy bullets. The Garrison tenaciously held its positions and thus frustrated the enemy's attempt to seize control of the Burma Road. On September 7, however, the above died heroically together with the last man under his command.

By his inspiring action, the above exemplified the Japanese martial spirit which is rooted in a supreme sense of loyalty. So outstanding were his exploits that the above deserves being set up as a shining example for the Imperial Armed Forces. Wherefore, a citation is hereby issued.

February 11, 1945,
Army Commander.

MACARTHUR'S H.Q. ADMITS SEVERE MANILA BATTLE

Hand-to-Hand Fighting Reported in Old Walled Town With Nippon Forces

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—MacArthur headquarters today announced that the Japanese and American forces are staging a furious hand-to-hand fighting in the old walled town of Manila.

Enemy to Demolish Manila

By F. FUNATO

Of the Military Press Corps

LUZON FRONT, February 25.—The American forces have bombastically announced that they will demolish Manila completely.

MacArthur's headquarters had announced on February 21 that "although artillery fire has been continued incessantly against Manila, our objective had not been attained. The greater part of the city is still a battleground." Then again declaring that "the American forces are refraining from destroying the buildings in the city at all times. We respect the lives of the inhabitants, and the fact that there are several thousand Manila inhabitants remaining in the city is the reason that Manila has not yet fallen into our hands," the blame for the belated fall of the Philippine capital is laid at the door of the city inhabitants.

On February 3 it was broadcast that Filipino guerrilla units had penetrated into the city and that MacArthur had made his triumphant entry into the city the next day. The impression was given to the world that Manila would be occupied by the American forces in a few days time. On February 18 the enemy radio announcements said that the Japanese Forces, in view of the peril to the lives of the city inhabitants had caused 8,000 to be evacuated from the old walled fort area.

Contradicting the enemy propaganda, Major General Oscar Griswold stated on February 20 that "in view of the fact that the American forces have sustained considerable losses in Manila, we have decided to commence, a destructive offensive on the city" and again on February 21, "not a single city inhabitant survives within the old walled fort area." This is nothing more than a proclamation on the part of the enemy that they have themselves killed off the innocent city dwellers.

The enemy has forced the Filipinos to take up arms and even women are being forced to fight. The churches in Baguio and Bayombong, the last refuge for Filipinos seeking safety, have been subjected to ruthless dive bombings and strafings and the priests, nuns and refugees killed outright. Incendiary guerrilla units have sneaked into the areas in rear of the Japanese positions and turned the city into a sea of flames.

LANDING AREA OF ENEMY ON YIOJIMA AIR-BLASTED

Japanese Planes Bomb Beachheads on February 23 and 24—Accurate Hits Made

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, February 25.—The Japanese Air Force blasted enemy bridgeheads on Yiojima on February 23. It was ascertained later that all the bombs hit their marks within the bridgehead areas, several places being enveloped by fire and smoke.

The Japanese planes bombed enemy positions in the same area also on the night of February 24.

Hahajima Again Raided

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, February 25.—Forty enemy carrier-based planes, made a daylight raid on Hahajima of the Ogasawara Group on February 23.

Balik Papan Air Attacked

Domei

BALIK PAPAN, February 24.—Approximately 30 B-24's and several P-38's and B-25's penetrated into Balik Papan in successive small formations for about two hours from 11 a.m. on February 23. Meeting with furious counterattacks of the Japanese Forces on the spot, the enemy raiders fled hurriedly after jettisoning their missiles. The damage on our side was slight.

B-29 Raider Blasted

Domei

TAIPING, February 24.—Japanese Air Forces, attacking some 60 B-29's fleeing from the Shonan area over the waters northwest of Penang, at about 12:40 p.m. today, damaged one enemy plane. No loss was suffered on our side.

130 B-29'S BLIND BOMB TOKYO AREA ON SUNDAY

600 Carrier-Borne Planes Raid Kanto District; 40 Blasted Up to 2 p.m. Feb. 25

A total of about 600 carrier-borne planes from American task forces raided the Kanto district on the morning of February 25 while about 130 Mariana-based B-29 bombers blind-bombed Tokyo from a high altitude in the afternoon, the Imperial Headquarters announced in its communique issued at 8:45 p.m. on the same day.

Due to the blind-bombing carried out by the B-29's a small number of explosive and incendiary bombs fell in the vicinity of the Bureau of Imperial Mews of the Imperial Household Department as well as near a guardsman's cottage at the side of a gate of the Omiya Palace, but damage was negligible, the same communique revealed.

Fires broke out at various places in the Metropolis but they were all under control by dusk, the communique further disclosed, adding that the war results of the counterattacking operations are now being investigated.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
8:45 p.m., February 25

"1. An aggregate total of about 600 carrier-borne planes from enemy task forces attacked the Kanto district on the morning of February 25.

"In addition about 130 B-29 bombers penetrated the skies over Tokyo Metropolis on the afternoon of the same day and carried out blind-bombing from a high altitude.

"2. As the result of the blind-bombing a small number of incendiaries and bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the Bureau of Imperial Mews of the Imperial Household Department as well as near a guardsman's cottage at the side of a gate of the Omiya Palace, but the damage was slight.

"3. Fires broke out at various places in the Metropolis but all of them were practically extinguished by dusk. Other damage was slight.

"4. As to the war results of the counterattacking battle, investigations are now being made.

40 Carrier Planes Hit

Powerful American task forces appeared in the neighboring waters of Japan Proper and a total of about 600 carrier-borne planes raided the Kanto district from 7:30 a.m. on February 25 principally aiming to attack airfields, munition factories, and traffic facilities. They also carried out indiscriminate strafing and bombing attacks over cities and towns.

Despite the inclement weather, Japanese Anti-Air Raid Forces counterattacked the raiders and up to 2 p.m. the same day they blasted a total of 40 carrier-borne planes, including 35 shot down and five damaged.

In conjunction with the raid made by the carrier-borne planes, about 130 B-29 bombers of the U.S. 21st Bomber Command in the Marianas appeared over Japan Proper, entering by way of the Izu and Kii peninsulas on the afternoon of the same day and flying through a snowstorm. For about one hour from about 2:20 p.m., the enemy raiders blindly bombed Tokyo Metropolis from a high altitude.

Part of the B-29 formations attacked Kobe and its vicinity, while others also bombed Gumma, Nagano, Yamanashi, Saitama, Chiba, Ibaraki, and Shizuoka prefectures.

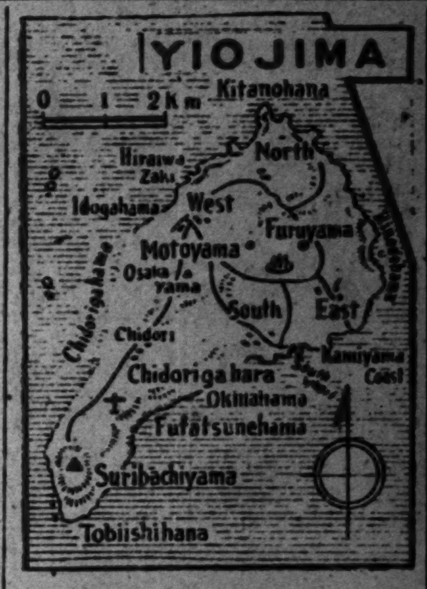
The enemy's indiscriminate and blind-bombing raids caused fires to start at various places in the Metropolis but our Anti-Air Raid Units in close cooperation with the Civilian Defense Corps extinguished the fires by dusk the same day.

Due to the high-altitude bombing attack, a small number of incendiaries and explosives hit the vicinity of the Bureau of Imperial Mews of the Imperial Household Department as well as near a guardsman's cottage at the side of a gate of the Omiya Palace, but damage was slight.

Noteworthy features of the raids on Sunday were the facts that carrier-borne planes and B-29 bombers acted in concert, and the number of the latter was large compared with previous raids. In the Mariana area, it appears that about 250 B-29 bombers have been massed.

Lone B-29's Raid Tokyo

One B-29 bomber raided the Kanto district shortly after 8 p.m. on February 25, coming from the direction of Nagoya, but fled without dropping any bombs. Another enemy bomber penetrated the skies over Tokyo at about 10 p.m. the same day, while another lone B-29 raided the same area at 1 a.m. the next day. Some bombs were dropped.



ENEMY ADMITS FEROCITY OF FIGHTING ON YIOJIMA

U.S. Navy Authorities Stress Battle Is Frontal Conflict And Therefore Costly

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—Although the United States navy authorities announced yesterday that the casualties of the American marines on Yiojima have reached about 6,000, no further accurate figure has been made public since it was announced on the previous day that the total casualty list was 5,372, according to a Washington report.

The navy authorities made the following statement as regards the casualties on Yiojima:

"The fierceness of the Yiojima battle sees no equal, but as the Japanese strength there is much greater than at Tarawa, the American casualties may be said to be even smaller. The casualties at Tarawa reached 3,500. At Yiojima more marines must have landed than at Tarawa, but the Japanese casualties are small because the Japanese were fully prepared beforehand and are concealed in strong positions and innumerable caves."

The strategic importance of Yiojima was also explained by the navy authorities to the press as follows:

"There is no other island besides Yiojima that meets all conditions for a vital air base. The Yiojima battle is a frontal conflict. We must win a thorough victory. We are determined to gain this island because of the offensive objective. On the island two airfields are now in use and another is under construction. These airfields will serve as the base for the medium-sized bomber planes and also for fighter planes. In order to intensify the offensive raid on Japan with B-29's, it is necessary to secure a base for the fighter planes."

Different From V-Arm

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—The report that the Japanese Forces in Yiojima are using 1,000-pound rocket shells as their frontline weapon is causing a serious repercussion in the anti-Axis camp as the new arm is different from the German V-weapon.

A Reuter correspondent quoting American arm experts concerning the new Japanese weapon said as follows:

"The new Japanese arm was first used four days ago at the landing point of the American marines at the southeastern end of Yiojima. This shell is propelled by a rocket system. The point from where the Japanese troops shot the shell must be the area behind the northern mountain. The appearance of such a new weapon proves how thoroughly and effectively the island is defended. Besides this new weapon, the Japanese have also ordinary rocket guns, trench mortars, anti-aircraft guns, automatic rifles and other powerful weapons."

Hoover Admits Difficulties

Domei

LISBON, February 23.—Speaking of the difficulties of the landing operations on Yiojima due to the fierce firing of Japanese trench mortars and rocket guns after the landing had been effected and severe casualties caused among the American marines, Vice-Admiral John Hoover, Commander of the U.S. Fleet in the Central Pacific, on his return from an inspection of the landing operations on Yiojima to the headquarters of the Pacific fleet told newspapermen yesterday as follows:

"Yiojima Island is the strongest fortified island that the United States has gained in the Pacific. However, the natural difficulties of the island are great and the Americans must completely overcome these. How long the operations on Yiojima will continue depends upon the resistance offered by the Japanese. The Americans will need more men and material to gain mastery over the island and it is our intention to make this island an air base as soon as it falls into our hands."

NIPPON SHOCK UNITS GAIN HUGE U.S. TOLL IN FIGHT ON YIOJIMA

Enemy Push on February 25 Battled to Standstill in Furious Struggle

The main American offensive on Yiojima appears to have been directed toward Motoyama Airfield in the center of the Island after February 24 although no significant changes are witnessed on the firing line.

Spotting a large enemy concentration at a point south of Motoyama Airfield at 6 a.m. on February 24, the Japanese quickly directed a furious converging fire upon the enemy and gained tremendous results. Four hours later on the same morning a part of the enemy accompanied by tanks pierced the airfield but were completely driven back by heavy Japanese counterattacks. In this battle the Japanese killed or wounded 30 enemy infantrymen besides destroying three tanks.

Another assault by 100 Americans backed by 20 trench mortars was also smashed at 2 p.m. on the same day when they struck the Japanese position at Mt. Byobu.

On February 25, the invasion forces started an all-out offensive drive along the entire line after being strongly reinforced. With about 80 tanks at their head, the enemy opened up an attack on the line between Jinetsugahara and Asodai Hill. The enemy planes numbering about 50 were in operation over the Island all day long repeating strafing and bombing attacks. Along with these activities the U.S. warships off the Island persistently carried out severe bombardments.

Strongly maintaining their firing line running from the South Wharf to Asodai Hill through Mt. Byobu, Jinetsugahara and Chidori Village, Imperial Garrison Forces are continuously engaging in heavy battle with shock attacks and intense shelling. After dealing stiff counterattacks from early morning the Japanese crippled the enemy attack which was brought to a complete standstill by evening.

Units of the Japanese Garrison on Mt. Suribachi which had met stubborn American attacks since the enemy started to land on Futatsune Beach in the southern part of Yiojima on the morning of February 19, are still holding their position. The Rising Sun Flag at the summit of the mountain was observed on February 24. In the meantime, the main body of the Garrison Forces on this mountain after fighting for three days launched a vigorous shock attack with their commander at their head on the morning of February 23, and after inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy, succeeded in breaking through the American line and joined the main strength of the Imperial Forces on the island.

In their shock tactics the Japanese Unit stormed into the enemy groups at a point near the South Wharf on the night of February 22, killing or wounding 500 of the enemy besides capturing numerous weapons and ammunition.

JAPANESE SMASHING YANKS

Making Fierce Counterattacks in Many Islands in Pacific

Domei

LISBON, February [illegible].—Japanese officers and men still remaining in the Pacific islands occupied by the Americans are valiantly counterattacking the enemy in spite of great difficulties, according to a UP dispatch from Omiyajima.

The center of the Pacific struggle has now shifted to Yiojima Island, but after many days following the occupation by the Americans, Japanese Forces in the islands further south are still continuing the struggle, says the same dispatch.

In Saipan, Tinian, Omiyajima and Peliliu, Japanese officers and men are still lurking among the hills. In Saipan, which has been turned into the base for B-29's, the Negro regiment of the American forces had an encounter with the Japanese on February 15, 16 and 17, and sustained heavy casualties, according to the same dispatch.

[illegible]POSAL BY COLOMBIA [illegible]BACKED BY CONFEREES

[illegible] Adopted Aggression [illegible] Any American State [illegible] As Hostile Move

Special to the Nippon Times

[illegible], February 25.—At the [illegible]-American Foreign Ministers' [illegible] now being held in Mexico City, a resolution was submitted by Colombia that any aggression against an American state would be considered as an aggression against all American states and this resolution was adopted by the delegates, according to a Mexico City report.

Uruguay proposed the prevention of Axis infiltration into the Western Hemisphere with severe penalties [illegible] for subversive activities and these proposals were all referred for consideration before the Inter-American Relations Committee.

The United States submitted a proposal to set up a machinery to stop future espionage, economic domination, psychological, financial and political infiltration specifically during the period between the war and the establishment of normal peace conditions. It is expected that the proposed plans will be presented at the forthcoming United Nations World Security Conference to be held in San Francisco on April 25.

To Exchange Information

Edward Stettinius, U.S. Secretary of State, presented a resolution calling for the free exchange of information among all peoples and of promoting good will and unity. As a means of exchanging information among all the American Republics, he suggested the meeting of the Inter-American Conference every four years and an annual meeting of American foreign ministers.

Brazil, Uruguay and Cuba presented recommendations for the establishment of a Western Hemisphere organization similar to the Dumbarton Oaks plan. This resolution has been referred to a subcommittee headed by the Venezuelan Foreign Minister. This committee includes representatives of Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and the United States.

The Cuban delegates submitted four resolutions and one of them recommended the unlimited immigration to Palestine. Another urged that the conference should repudiate and condemn the inhuman treatment of Jews by the Germans.

Brazil turning her attention to the economic field, urged that the American nations should have equal opportunities to obtain machineries and machine tools from the United States after the war, while Bolivia proposed that industrial nations should assure markets for those nations producing raw materials.

Urges Peace Body

The Peruvian Foreign Minister urged the formation of a peace organization based on International Law. He said: "Our conference ought to make sincere plans to start a new organization under International Law in many parts of the world for a universal structure of order which is being undermined and deteriorated."

The Uruguayan delegate, Juan S. [illegible], speaking in an unofficial capacity said that his Government supported the cause of democracy, while Brazilian Foreign Minister Pedro L. Velloso at the same time expressed categoric opposition to any proposal for rupture with the Spanish Government under Chief of State General Francisco Franco.

The El Nacional, official organ of the Mexican Administrative Party, today reported that several American nations favored breaking off relations with Spain. It said that three nations were undecided and one was against the proposal.

The conferees received a message from President Roosevelt who told the delegates that since the days of their independence, the American Republics have tirelessly explored every pathway to human freedom, justice and international well being.

More Resolutions Probed

Meanwhile, the conference committees were considering more than a score of resolutions still in the draft state which cover a wide range of issues. Most of today's work was by the committees where preliminary exchange of ideas were [illegible]. Tonight was the deadline for filing resolutions and a week end recess was scheduled to be taken at the close of tonight's meeting.

Fuehrer Decorates Hierl

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—The highest decoration which has been awarded only to a select number of persons after their death—the Gold [illegible] of the German Order with Oak Leaves and Swords—was awarded yesterday for the first time to a living German by the Fuehrer. He is [illegible] labor leader and Reich Minister Konstantin Hierl. The Fuehrer [illegible] him with this Order on the occasion of the meeting of the [illegible] at the Fuehrer's Headquarters in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of [illegible] Socialist Party's pro-

Plastiras Cabinet Is Likely to Resign; Premier's Policy Hit

Domei

LISBON, February 23.—An early overthrow of the Plastiras Greek Cabinet was predicted by the Athens correspondent of the London Observer, according to a London report. The correspondent points out that Premier General Nicholas Plastiras is exposed to attacks from both the Left and Right Wings and must be expected to resign soon to make room for a government headed by a non-political and non-military man. He further points out the main reason for the dwindling confidence in Plastiras is the opinion prevalent in Greece that the future problems confronting the country are more of an economic and social nature than military and that, therefore, the Premier is not suited to be at the helm of the country.

RIOT BREAKS IN BUCHAREST

Armed Rioters Attack Royal Palace, Premier's Office

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—The Royal Palace building, the Premier's office, and the Ministry of the Interior in Bucharest were attacked yesterday noon by irresponsible unpatriotic elements, according to a Bucharest radio report.

The report added that similar incidents were reported in several provincial towns. A brief official announcement which furnished no details pointed out only "that Government troops were ordered not to open fire."

"A bullet pierced my desk," Premier General Nicolas Radescu of Rumania stated when speaking over the radio about the Bucharest incidents, according to a Zagreb report.

Radescu confirmed that during the incident "several volleys" were fired at the Royal Palace, the premises of the Ministry of the Interior, the Premier's office and the police headquarters. He failed to indicate to what political groups the real instigators and demonstrators belong, the report added.

FORRESTAL ON INSPECTION

U.S. Navy Secretary Lands on Yiojima to See Operations

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—Headquarters of the United States Pacific Fleet on Omiyajima Island today announced the arrival of U.S. Navy Secretary James Forrestal there to confer with Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, according to information from a foremost Pacific base.

The announcement added that Forrestal inspected the landing operations on Yiojima Island on board the flagship of Vice Admiral Richmond Turner, commander of the Yiojima landing operations, and also personally went ashore to inspect the local war situation.

PUPPET ITALY GIVEN POWER

Will Be Allowed to Conduct Own Diplomatic Relations

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 25.—The anti-Axis countries have returned important powers to their puppet Italian Government which from now on will have full legislative authority, says a Rome dispatch reaching here today.

The anti-Axis military government will be withdrawn from some parts and Italy will be allowed to conduct diplomatic relations with other governments with her own ambassadors. The Italian Government's appointments will no longer require approval of the anti-Axis Commission.

Hitler Exhorts Leaders

Domei

FUEHRER'S HEADQUARTERS, February 25.—On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of the National Socialist Party's program celebrated yesterday, the Fuehrer received at his headquarters the Reichsleiters, Gauleiters and the leaders of the N.S.D.A.P. organizations in order to give them directions for the victorious continuation of the war, for the comprehensive organization of all forces of resistance and the bolstering of the Party's program in the German people's struggle for their destiny.

New Egyptian Premier Picked

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, February 25.—King Faruk has appointed former Prime Minister Mustapha Pasha Nahas as the new Egyptian Prime Minister and Military Governor of Egypt to succeed former Prime Minister Ahmed Maher, who was assassinated yesterday, according to a Cairo report. A new Government has already been formed and his new Cabinet is practically the same as the one under the late Prime Minister.

BERLIN IS NOT SURPRISED AT MOVE TAKEN BY TURKS

States Declaration of War Against Axis Only of Small Importance

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—The Turkish declaration of war on Germany and Japan is not considered surprising and is looked upon as of small importance from the standpoint of the war, according to competent Berline quarters.

These circles declare that Turkey had already lost her political freedom of action last summer when she permitted herself to be persuaded by Britain and the Soviet Union to sever diplomatic relations with Germany.

At that time, they said, Turkish Prime Minister Sukru Saracoglu stated that Turkey was hoping to avoid being drawn into the war.

The reasons given by the Turkish Government to the Turkish National Assembly for the fixing of the beginning of the war on March 1, was particularly characteristic, Berlin quarters further point out. It showed that Britain informed Turkey that, by reason of the Yalta decisions, Turkey could take part in a future peace settlement only if she declared war on Germany and Japan by March 1.

The present step, it is stressed in Berlin, would have in its wake serious consequences for the future of the country and of the Turkish people for Turkey has found herself in a most precarious situation frequently.

Meanwhile, according to certain information, the truth of which could not be proved but is very probable, British Ambassador in Ankara Sir Maurice Peterson during his talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Hassan Bey Saka on Turkey's participation in the war, according to Wilhelmstrasse circles, is said to have stated that Britain and the United States wish to see Turkey as equal partner at the United Nations World Security Conference in San Francisco meeting on April 25.

Should this information be true, it would throw an interesting light on the political motives of the San Francisco conference as well as of further international assemblies. In this connection, Berlin political circles call the attention to the fact that the Soviets at any time may appear at such conferences with representatives of her 16 so-called autonomous Soviet Republics thus having the possibility of enforcing the fulfilment of her wishes according to the majority principle.

A similar situation had been brought about already at the World Trade Union Congress held in London so that in order to avoid such Soviet superiority, Britain and the United States are endeavoring to collect as many votes as possible. Turkey as well as others, particularly South American countries are now being forced to declare war on Germany and are thus intended to be willing tools in Allied hands.

According to information from the same source, Foreign Minister Saka told the British Ambassador that he did not believe it possible to counteract the Soviet aspirations at the future conferences with such means. Sir Maurice is alleged to have replied that it did not matter what one believed for one has to make an attempt in any case.

Turkey Deceiving Itself

Domei

ZURICH, February 25.—Turkey has decided to enter the war when the war is far distant from the Turkish border, commented the Swiss press. The local Basler Nachrichten, in this connection, emphasized that Turkey probably is deceiving itself if it believes to obtain the same compensation as those who entered the war long ago.

U.S. to Draft 1,500,000 Men

Domei

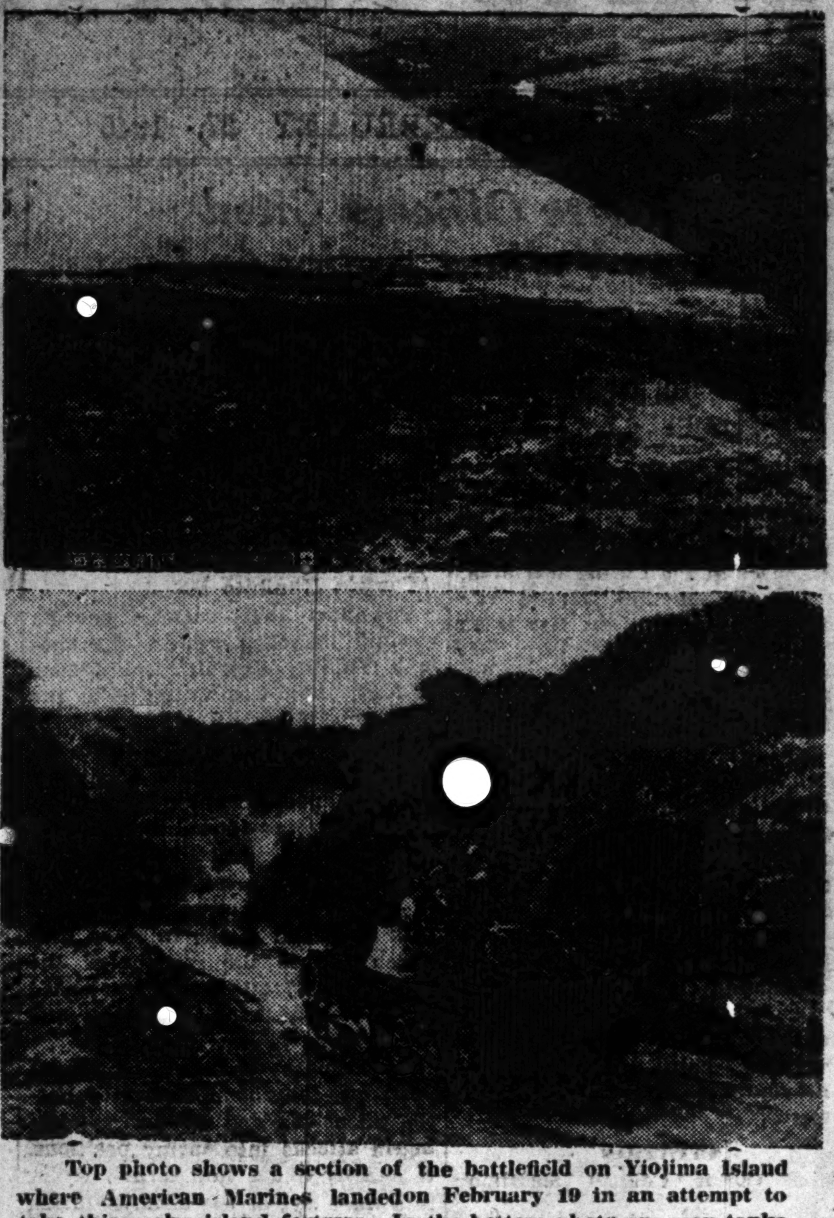
LISBON, February 25.—Authorities of the U.S. Selective Service Board announced today that more men between 30 and 33 will be called to the colors, according to a Washington dispatch. Men of this age class will be exempted only if they hold key positions in important war industries, the dispatch continued, adding that hitherto it was sufficient for exemption if they worked in important war industries. The authorities believe that by this measure an additional 1,500,000 men will be called to the colors in the course of the current year.

Brazil-Soviet Ties Likely

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 25.—Brazil is expected to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, according to reports emanating from the Inter-American Conference now under way at Mexico City, a recent dispatch from that city reveals. The opinion is current, the dispatch continues, that Brazil stands to gain a great deal at the World Security Conference by this move. It is also expected that as a consequence, it will emerge as the leading nation in South America.

Focus of Entire World Attention



Top photo shows a section of the battlefield on Yiojima Island where American Marines landedon February 19 in an attempt to take this rocky island fortress. In the bottom photo are seen tanks of the defending Japanese Garrison on the island.

German Navy Sinks 64 Anglo-U.S. Ships Between Feb. 1-23

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—German submarines, motor torpedo boats and torpedo carrying planes between February 1 and 23 have sunk 64 Anglo-American merchant vessels, aggregating 363,400 tons. During the same period two cruisers, 15 destroyers and two other escort vessels of enemy convoys were torpedoed.

Ribbentrop Sends Sympathy

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—Reich Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop expressed his sympathy to the widow of the chairman of the French Liberation Committee, Jacques Doriot, who was killed on Friday by a low level attack of the enemy planes. Von Ribbentrop also transmitted his sympathy to the French People's Party and the French Liberation Committee. He stated that Mr. Doriot was an excellent champion of German-French mutual understanding and that Germany has lost a substantial fellow combatant in the present struggle for Europe.

New U.S. Plane Revealed

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—New types of carrier-borne Hell Diver planes are engaged in the Pacific War, according to the U.S. Navy Department, says a Washington dispatch. The plane is equipped with eight 5-inch rocket guns and is capable of loading double of 545 kilogram bomb, which an ordinary Hell Diver plane can carry.

U.S. Meat Racket Bared

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—Mass sale of forged meat tickets has completely disorganized the meat supply in New York and other densely populated districts in the eastern United States, the Daily Mail reported from New York, according to London report.

Bidault Reaches London

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, February 25.—French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault has arrived in London to discuss foreign policy with the British Government, according to a London report.

V-2 Used on Italian Front

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—Midget V-2 bombs are being used on the Italian Front to an increasing extent, the Daily Express reported on February 23. These V-2's are fired with explosive force by German screen projectors, the report added.

Passes Through Dardanelles

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—The first anti-Axis convoy passed through the Dardanelles several weeks ago, it was revealed in Cairo today, according to a dispatch from that city.

TURKISH ARMY TO FIGHT

Likely to Take Action in Eastern Mediterranean Area

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—The question of what sort of military action Turkey will take is not very clear, although the Ankara Government has declared war on Germany and Japan, according to an Ankara report.

In this connection, the AP correspondent in Ankara reported today that Turkey will undertake mopping-up operations in the eastern Mediterranean.

In Crete, 12,000 German troops are still encamped in the northwestern corner of the island, while in the eastern Aegean Sea, Rhodes Island is being held by a more or less strong German unit, according to the correspondent. The Germans are also holding the greater part of the Dodecanese Islands.

MP ORGANS TO CONVENE

Reforestation and Penal Code Revision Bodies Holding Parleys

The Wartime Reforestation and Penal Code Revision committees of the House of Peers will sit in respective meetings at 10 a.m. on February 28. These committees are expected to hold special conferences with the Government and the House representatives in connection with the two bills respectively.

Meanwhile, the Party Liaison Committee of the Upper House was scheduled to meet on Monday in connection with the proposed establishment of a new political party or parties. Though well aware of the need of early realization of the project in view of the critical war situation, a large majority of the House of Peers are taking a cautious attitude in view of the basic nature of the bi-cameral system and it is understood that they rather prefer to refrain from active participation in the program while giving moral support to it.

In this connection, a move toward organizing what is tentatively named an Association to Investigate Current Problems is apparently gaining support among a number of the Upper House members. This organ will include members of all parties of the Upper House and is designed to encourage forceful execution of wartime policies."

To Discuss Anti-Raid Measures

The Air Defense Headquarters of the Home Ministry has completed the formulation of various practical measures in line with the decision reached previously at the Cabinet meeting on February 22. In order to put these new measures into practice, special meetings are scheduled to be held throughout the country. At the meetings, problems concerning the evacuation of the people, transfer of industrial factories, formulation of the mode of living for those who are staying in big cities, improvement of anti-fire measures, consolidation of air raid shelters, and control and employment of solid buildings for anti-air raid purposes will be thoroughly discussed.

WAR PRODUCTION SETUP IN EAST ASIA IS ASSURED

Japan, China, Manchoukuo Form Bloc to Realize Complete Self-Sufficiency

With the intensification of the struggle in the Philippines and with the enemy landing on Yiojima, communications between Japan and the Southern Regions have come to be exposed to a serious menace. Thus, the necessity of turning the combined resources of Japan, Manchoukuo, and China into direct war potential has become more urgent than ever. In this connection earnest discussions had been held in the Diet, and the Government has made it clear that every step was being taken toward that end, with the closest cooperation of all concerned.

The complete success of the Japanese military operations in North, Central, and South China, the destruction of the American air bases in the eastern and southern parts of China, and the establishment of overland communications between North and South China by the Canton-Hankow railway are so many factors making directly for the realization of a strong system of self-sufficiency.

These factors have recently been crowned by the announcement of a new economic policy regarding China—a policy which is being already pushed with the utmost energy. Great things are expected from the new economic policy, which is aimed at the mobilization of continental resources, while stabilizing Chinese life and consolidating the National Government of China.

On Coordinated Basis

The planned production of food, liquid fuel, coal, iron, steel, and light metals, supplies which form the most important items of the Goods Mobilization Program, will be conducted on the coordinated basis of Japan, Manchoukuo, and China, with resources from other regions reinforcing the autarchical structure of the three countries. The present position of the system on this basis may be seen from what follows:

(a) Food production. In the adjustment of the supply of rice in Japan, shipments from Indo-China and Thailand played an important part in the past, but since the commencement of the 1944 "rice year," Japan has been completely independent of foreign rice. Along with the increased production of rice, barley, potatoes, and other food crops, Manchoukuo in close cooperation with Japan, has pushed forward its program for agricultural land development, which was adopted in 1943. This has already been executed to the extent of 87 per cent. Apart from this program, a vigorous movement for boosting agricultural production, which has been steadily maintained, has resulted in a noteworthy increase in that line. As has been stated in the Diet, shipments to Japan this year will show a considerable increase over last year.

(b) Liquid fuel. In this department also, it has been made clear in the Diet that enough supplies will be produced for the prosecution of the war. The oil resources, both natural and artificial, will be exploited to the utmost extent in the Japan-Manchoukuo-China bloc. In Manchoukuo, a large increase in the production of shale oil has already been assured. In addition, the equipment for making alcohol from vegetables will be greatly increased during the present year.

Speedy Steps Taken

(c) Light metals. In Manchoukuo and China, there are considerable deposits of aluminite and similar materials. In this respect also, production will be conducted on the coordinated basis of Japan, Manchoukuo, and China, a matter which has been revealed by the spokesman of the Munitions Ministry in the Diet. The Production Headquarters established in the Ministry of Greater East Asiatic Affairs is exerting efforts to have the construction materials sent to the localities concerned, as speedily as possible.

(d) Iron, steel, and coal. In the production of iron, steel, and coal, the program for attaining self-sufficiency was adopted much earlier than for any other branch of production. The shipments of iron and steel from Manchoukuo are steadily increasing every year. The organization during last year of the Manchuria Iron and Steel Corporation through the amalgamation of existing companies, the increased capacity of iron production by the blast furnaces transferred to Manchoukuo, and the simplified method of production are turning Manchoukuo into a huge supply base for Japan. In Japan Proper, concentrated production of iron and steel is proceeding at a quick tempo. Thus the system of self-sufficiency is being consolidated on the basis of Japan, Manchoukuo, and China.

Yanks Admit Sinking Nippon Ship Carrying U.S. War Prisoners

Domei

ZURICH, February 24.—The sinking of a Japanese ship carrying 1,500 American war prisoners by a U.S. bomber plane off the Philippines last December was admitted on February 22 by a Washington report. In this connection, Reuter said that this is the third time that a Japanese vessel carrying war prisoners has been sunk by American forces in the Pacific. In some neutral countries anti-Axis propaganda has been trying to make the people believe that the Japanese Forces themselves purposely sink their own ships carrying war prisoners. However, the above Washington report, and the admission made by Reuter has proved the falsity of such propaganda claims.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

February 25

Assault formations of the army and Waffen SS smashed the remainder of the enemy bridgehead on the western bank of the Gran in face of stubborn resistance.

In the Slovac ore mountains as well as in the Bielitz and Ratibor areas Soviet scouting thrusts remained unsuccessful. On both sides of Zobten and on the northern fringe of the Katzbach mountains the enemy in continuous hard fighting only got beyond his initial positions in a few sectors.

The breakthrough attempts of enemy tank formations northwest of Lauban collapsed also yesterday with casualties to the enemy. The attacks against Forst and Guben were broken up by our defense fire. In the Silesian area 67 enemy tanks were knocked out or seized. Between Neustettin and Konitz the enemy squeezed back our front with strong infantry and tank forces while the enemy attacks on the Tuchel Heath and west of of the lower Vistula were unsuccessful.

In the big battle in East Prussia our divisions which for six weeks have been uninterruptedly engaged in hard fighting have withstood the onslaught of eight enemy armies. Our powerful Naval forces again yesterday joined in the fighting with telling effect. Southeast of Libau the Soviet attacks no longer showed the coherence of the previous days as a result of the heavy losses inflicted on them. Our troops repulsed the attackers knocking out 23 enemy tanks.

In the west in the fighting area around Goch a local enemy penetration southeast of the town was narrowed down. Renewed enemy breakthrough attempts southeast of Goch were halted.

The defense battle on the Roer is raging on a 60-kilometer-broad front. Between Roermond and Geilenkirchen and the Erkelenz railway line forces of the American 9th army succeeded in pushing back our advanced posts to the eastern bank of the river at few points. In the sectors of Linnich and on both sides of Juelich and Dueren fierce fighting is in progress. The enemy was everywhere checked inside of our main defenses. Night battleplanes successfully attacked the enemy supply lines.

The defensive fighting on both sides of Neuerburg in the Eifel continues. On the lower Saar our troops frustrated the enemy attempts at enlarging his local bridgeheads at Ockfen and Serrig. American thrusts in the Saarlautern area failed. On the Spichern Hills our troops retook more pillboxes from the enemy and in the sector north of Saargemuend they threw the enemy back in a counterthrust.

In Central Italy a numerically weak assault party on its own initiative attacked and reduced a strong enemy base on the Monte della Torazza. North of Poretta our troops after fluctuating fighting halted the attacking enemy forces outside the main defenses.

Anglo-American terror raiders during daylight yesterday attacked towns in western, northwestern, and southeastern Germany. Bombs dropped on the residential quarters, and low-level attacks caused casualties among the civilian population. Last night British bombers raided some places in the Rhenish-Westphalian area and the Reich capital. Our air defenses brought down 22 enemy planes.

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CHUNGKING-YENAN TALKS FACE MANY DIFFICULTIES

American News Agencies Point Out Obstacles to Success Of Negotiations

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 25.—The difficulties for the successful outcome of the long drawn-out negotiations between Chou En-lai, Yenan delegate, and the Chungking Government representatives are pointed out by both the United Press and the Associated Press, according to Chungking dispatches.

After Chou En-lai had returned to Yenan after rejecting four proposals made to him by the Chungking representatives, Chungking's Minister of Information revealed that "The Communists, after two weeks of negotiations, rejected a four-point settlement offered by the Chungking representatives. Then the Government made new proposals which the Yenan delegate has taken back to Yenan."

According to the Minister of Information, Chungking made a number of important concessions in the new negotiations. Among them are the following:

1) Chungking's readiness to recognize the Chinese Communist Party as a model political organization.

2) The inclusion of high ranking Communist officers in the National Military Council.

3) Inclusion of Communist representatives and representatives of other political parties of the Executive Yuan with the view to forming a sort of wartime cabinet.

4) The establishment of a committee of three to consider the reorganization of the Chinese Communist Army, with possibly an American officer presiding.

Yenan considered these proposals unacceptable and rejected them, although they brought forth a proposal to convene a conference of all political parties. In compliance with the general idea of this request, the Chungking Government has offered to convene a conference of the Kuomintang, the Chinese Communist Party and other parties as well as some non-partisan independent members to consider political and military measures pending the consulting of a national congress.

Concerning the success of the negotiations, the Chungking Minister of Information said: "I shall make no forecasts. In the course of the negotiations, we appreciate the friendly efforts of United States Ambassador Patrick Hurley in bringing the two sides together, and in helping to create a better atmosphere for negotiations."

On the other hand, Chou En-lai stated that he regarded the interpretation of the Chungking Minister of Information as unfair since it implied that the Chungking Government made all the concessions, and that the minister had concealed the conditions under which the concessions had been made.

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[illegible] ENEMY'S PLAN', [illegible] TOKYO DAILIES STRESS

Editorials Also Touch on Chungking-Yenan Rift, Crimea, German Situation

The Japanese nation's vehement reply to the American enemy's plan for disposing of Japan at the end of the current war was voiced in editorial comments by all the leading Tokyo dailies during the week ending February 21.

Other major topics for editorial comment were: the proposed compromise between Chungking and Yenan, the "Big Three" Conference at Yalta, and the German situation.

Taking up the enemy's plan for Japan's disposal, the Tokyo Shimbun declares that it is unthinkable that the enemy would be more lenient to Japan than to Germany, since both are allies, and that, in a sense, the enemy's attitude toward us is more harsh than toward the German nation. The paper takes up the opinion of United States Assistant Secretary of State Archibald MacLeish regarding the disposal of Japan, and says that his opinion represents that of the enemy nations whether or not it is endorsed by the Crimea Conference. The journal points out that the communique of the Crimea Conference showed a very harsh plan for disposing of Germany, contrary to the views of those who had anticipated that the enemy nations might be more lenient toward Germany. After referring to the decisions of the Cairo Conference, the resolution of the ninth annual meeting of the Pacific Problems Investigation Conference, as well as Prime Minister Churchill's speech in the House of Commons on January 18, the journal says:

Vigilance Urged

"The empty Wilsonian promises which led to the collapse of Germany at the close of the First European War have been weaved into the Anglo-American propaganda now and then and this must be noted with due attention. The beastliness of the enemy nations has been most glaringly exposed by their plan for disposing of Japan. It is hardly necessary to point out our answer to such enemy propaganda. We need only advance toward winning final victory by crushing the enemy forces in the actual battle."

The Nippon Sangyo Keizai likens the resolution of the Pacific Problems Investigation Conference at Hot Springs to the A.B.C.D. encirclement which the enemy nations tried to force on Japan just prior to the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War which, the paper explains, was intended to suffocate Japan to death. After referring to the enemy's plan for altering the basic policy of the Japanese nation, the journal points out that the real intention of the enemy in inserting this incredible sacrilegious clause is to eradicate the very source of the life of the Japanese nation and that even the mention of such a scheme should call forth a downright denunciation of the enemy's savage designs which must be crushed at all cost. "The enemy's plan is like their daydream," the journal continues, "But it has revealed his hideousness in the broad daylight, and we shall not commit the folly of making any reply to such a hideous plan; we shall only give the enemy an answer in the form of our daily war efforts and by our accumulated acts in our everyday life."

Enemy Plot Bared

The Asahi believes that the resolution of the Hot Spring Conference contains one point which must not be ignored. The conference does not fear God, the journal goes on to say, because it belittles the dignity of our Empire and has thereby provoked the fundamental pride of our race. After stating that our answer to such a profane proposal will be given to the enemy at the battle front, the journal reveals the different degrees of severity of the proposed plans in radio broadcasts to Europe and East Asia. This is taken by the paper as the enemy's plot to divide public opinion in Japan, and recalls the enemy's similar scheming in the last World War against Germany. The paper then says:

"The communique issued by the Crimea Conference declares that the enemy nations would not regard the German people as their foe, but the Germans know the enemy's trick too well to be deceived by such a piece of scheming any longer. This is why we pay special respect to our ally, Germany."

Concerning the proposed compromise between Chungking and Yenan, the Mainichi opines that it would be impossible to reach such a compromise unless the Chungking regime abandons what it has been steadfastly maintaining, for what Yenan demands is exactly what Chungking wishes to retain at all cost. "The Yenan regime stands on internationalism," the journal goes on, "and for this reason it cannot co-exist with the Chiang Kai-shek regime. Therein lie their fatalistic strife and room for American intervention. What the United States desires in China is not a vigorous nationalism but a desultory internationalism, and the challenge of Yenan to dictatorial Chungking offers an excellent opportunity for American intervention. What the United States wishes is to destroy Chinese nationalism and to secure China simply as an American market. But there is one thing very ominous to the United States and that is the absolute silence maintained by the Soviet Union which is standing like a Sphinx as regards the existing Chinese situation."

Chungking-Yenan Rift

The Yomiuri-Hochi takes up the proposed plan presented by Yenan for establishing a coalition between Yenan and Chungking. The paper points out that the plan is not only the demand of Yenan but the desire of the United States. "Nay, it may be said that the United States wishes to utilize Yenan in forcing its demands on Chungking," the journal continues. "Having succeeded in forcing Chiang Kai-shek to make the recent reorganization of his administration and to make a declaration regarding the adoption of constitutional government, the United States has come to force the establishment of a coalition between these two Chinese regimes. If such a coalition is actually established, Chungking will have closer relations not only with Yenan but also with the United States whose pressure on the Chiang regime will become all the more unbearable. Chiang Kai-shek is now faced by the stupendous problem of deciding his future fate: Whether he should cling to his traditional policy of independence in dealing with the problem of mutual relations between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party or to abandon it all together before the American pressure. The proposed coalition is not only a problem of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, but has become a highly complicated international problem. The fact is that the United States desires to make Yenan a sort of a 'Tito' regime in East Asia."

Crimea Conference Significant

Commenting on the recent communique of the "Big Three" Conference, the Mainichi recalls that Germany had acted in advance of such a statement by the conference in anticipation of a plan for Germany's disposal, so that it never astonished the Germans. In the opinion of the journal, the communique only betrayed the hatred and spirit of vengeance against the German nation on the part of the three participating nations. What the communique gave out only intensified the fighting spirit of the German people, the daily declares, for no alternative to their fate was given them by the communique. In conclusion, the paper says that the most important element of the joint statement is the attitude of the Anglo-American nations toward the Soviet Union, and that all other matters are of secondary importance.

The Yomiuri frankly recognizes that the communique of the Crimea Conference reveals the cooperation of the three participating nations to finish the war together through their mutual cooperation, and anticipates a similar cooperation in the Pacific. "In their common war against Germany", the journal goes on, "the Anglo-American nations have been forced to admit the leadership of the Soviet Union and this has been revealed during the Crimea Conference. The Anglo-Americans who are inter-weaving their imperialistic designs with the war have been forced to bend their knees before the Soviet Union which entertains a different opinion about the war. Paradoxically speaking, it may be said that the three leading anti-Axis nations met in their recent conference in order to stop their mutual rivalry as regards Germany and European problems. At any rate, the conference has shown that the Anglo-Americans lack power to emancipate or stabilize the European nations".

The Tokyo Shimbun admits that the Crimea Conference has shown the unity of the three participating nations despite their various differences in views and standpoints, and that the success of the meeting was due mainly to the favorable war situation for the anit-Axis camp. The paper, however, warns the people of Japan to be prepared against a similar severity of the enemy's offensive against this country. "Let us put ourselves in the place of the Germans," the paper continues, "for the enemy will try to impose upon us even severer terms should we be defeated in the war. The result of the Yalta Conference offers us the best opportunity of knowing the enemy's severe intentions and we certainly should prepare ourselves against the worst. This ought to be sufficient ground for our grandest efforts to win this war whatever may be its cost for us".

Lt. Gen. Okazaki Given Post

Lieutenant General Seisaburo Okazaki has been appointed head of the Kinki District Munitions Supervisory Department succeeding Lieutenant General Haruyoshi Hasegawa, it was announced by the Munitions Ministry on February 24. Lieutenant General Okazaki is 53 years old. He became Army Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1914. He was promoted to the rank of Major General and Lieutenant General in 1939 and 1942 respectively. He was also a member of the Army General Staff.

Japanese Thought and Character

Japanese Genius for Assimilation

By SHUNKICHI AKIMOTO
Of The Nippon Times Staff

In concluding this part of the discussion on Japanese Thought and Character we may briefly review what has been already said. There are two kinds of thought; that which has grown as it were from the native soil and that which has come from abroad; and the blending of the two has resulted in the so-called Japanese thought. So far we have chiefly confined ourselves to considering the natural agencies which have created and conditioned Japanese thought, such as race, geography and climate, rather than specific thoughts themselves.

Of pristine Japanese thought pre-existing the Buddhist and Confucian doctrines it would take very much time and space to make a systematic analysis. A tremendous amount of exegesis has been written. Motoori Norinaga alone has devoted the whole of his long life to the study and elucidation of the Kojiki, the sacred book of Shinto, while his teacher, Kamo Mabuchi, has declared in so many words that a perfect Way of Life had been found in the divine age of Japan, that all the evils that have since crept into this sacred land were owing to the execrable Confucianism and Buddhism and other barbarian doctrines, and that the only salvation from the wrath to come is for the people to wash themselves clean of those alien influences and return to the way of the deities as revealed in the sacred texts. This view of Mabuchi's is of course shared or followed by the more orthodox of Shintoists today, especially those identified with uncompromising nationalism.

There is a sort of theological question as to the origin of pure Japanese thought—whether it was formulated by the aforesaid race, geography, etc., or whether it was the revelation of the deities. It was like the question determining evolutionism and transcendentalism—which was the first to come, egg or hen?—and Shintoists of course favor the latter. Archaeologists assure us that the wheat bearing grains were first discovered somewhere upon the Mediterranean basin before men had ever thought of cultivating the plant. We also are told that the art of cooking meat was discovered by accident when pigs were burnt in a fire and that the art of smelting was dicovered also by accident when some iron-ore was burnt red-hot in a fire occurring at what was evidently an iron mine. Thus it may be said that we have received as free gifts, without merit on our part, all the so-called discoveries and inventions at the hands of nature.

Shintoists therefore justly postulate that the World—thought— did exist in the beginning and that men have learned to read it through the kindly instructions of nature just as if men were first served with ready-made tools, ready-cooked food, ready-made clothes, etc., before they "invented" the art of agriculture, cooking, weaving, etc. So they partake somewhat of Aristotorian Naturalism, identifiable with nature-worship. They believe men have merely followed the suggestions, or even the commands, of nature in evolving their culture and civilization. Hence the doctrines of grace, predestination and gratitude have an important place in Shintoism as well as in the Japanese moral character.

Land of Free Thought

Thus there can be no doubt as to the fact that original Japanese thought existed, forming the foundations of the Japanese character. The thoughts imported from abroad are merely grafted on to this basic rock. Beneath the surface of the so-called Japanese Buddhism, Japanese Confucianism or Japanese Christianity will be found the Shintoist, and you can no more help this than any alien plant or animal transplanted to this land assuming in the long run the character of its local kin. Culture may influence but not supplant nature except at a penalty which will be fatal. By the way, this element of nature worship which is so predominant in Japanese thought, as it is in every potent religion, Christianity included, is deplorably lacking in Anglo-Saxon peoples whose minds have been in recent years constantly fed on the idea of the subjugation of nature and that of regarding culture as the antithesis of nature. It is an American who characterizes the Occidental mind in the following words:

"In Christiandom the soul of man inhabits two separate spheres. It is the tradition of the Western World that idealism and the daily life should not be in each other's way. Nations which rob and murder one another proclaim their passionate faith in a gospel which teaches men that they are brothers. Christian civilization is the heir of two mutual hostile ideas, which have never been weeded out but dwell together on the understanding that they are to have exclusive mastery in their respective domains." In other words, scratch the so-called Christian and you will find underneath his other and truer character—the worshipper of Mammon and the god of war.

There is little sense therefore in fearing foreign thought too much as if it could swamp all the good native thought. For a time it may exercise a spell as every novelty may in this country whose people, like other insular folk, are apt to overestimate foreign novelties, but as experience shows, every foreign innovation, if it is to survive in this land, will have to adjust itself to native requirement. The Japanese, especially the governing class, have been charged with the serious allegation of intellectual cowardice; they are said to be afraid of foreign ideas, more ready to shut up within their ancient shells of pet ideas than to meet new challenges in open controversy. But this is not true. It is granted of course that there is always a squeamish sense or timid apprehension of temporary or sectional character—in every country—as, for instance, the capitalist's fear of Syndicalism, general fear of arrant Pacifism in wartime, the conservative's fear of Modernism, etc. But on the whole no people have shown a greater toleration of and respect for foreign ideas than have the Japanese all through their long cultural history. Of this there can be no more convincing proof than the famous clause in the national Constitution guaranteeing absolute freedom of faith, or in the delicate dual interpretation of Shintoism as "State Shinto," and "Sect (religious) Shinto," thereby providing that every Japanese, while he is obliged to honor State Shinto as a patriotic duty like that of shouldering arms in war time, is free to believe or not to believe Sect Shinto. Moreover, it is a fact known in the whole world that Japanese history is free from anything like that bloody record of religious persecution and thought warfare with which European history is luridly stained. Indeed from time immemorial freedom of thought and a fair and unprejudiced attitude toward all ideas, foreign and native, have been marked features of the Japanese national character.

Origin of Local Shrines

It is also a fact worthy to remember that in the ancient annals of Japan dealing with pre-historical personages they were broadly divided into the Tenshin (heavenly deities) and Chigi (earthly deities), the former in reference to the conquering Yamato race and the latter to the old native rulers and that the inter-marriage between them was freely contracted as in the famous instance of Ninigi no Mikoto, the grandson of the Sun Goddess, who took unto his wife Kono-Hana-Sakuya-Hime, daughter of O-Yamatsumi-no-Kami, local ruler of Hyuga province. Later in the historical era a new social class of no mean distinction was added in the form of "Banbetsu" (literally, barbarian class) made of foreign immigrants and their posterity. The principle of perfect equality observed in the treatment of the banbestu may best be seen in the modification of the character of the tutelary shrines. At first, they were consecrated to the ancestors of notable families like the Kasuga Shrine of Nara, sacred unto Amano Koyane, the ancestor of the Fujiwara family. As Continental immigrants and their children had no family shrines at which to worship they were permitted to regard such shrines as were situated at convenient distances in the same light as the natives regarded their family shrines. Consequently the so-called "Uji-gami" (family deity) has come to assume the new character of "Ubusuna-gami" (birth-place deity) or the guardian deity protecting not only the descendants of a particular family but all those born within the jurisdiction, so to speak, of the local shrine. In other words, family Gods have become local Gods. Thus came into being many famous shrines bearing geographical names, instead of family names as formerly, such as, for instance, Kashima Shrine at Kashima in Hitachi, Katori Shrine at Katori in Shimosa, Atago Shrine at Atago, Suwa Shrine at Suwa, etc., without number.

There may be some perverse people of alien origin who being at Suwa refuse to honor Suwa Shrine, but insist upon worshipping the old God they worshipped while in their native land. Such persons are of course welcome to their choice, but it is only at their own risk, for they may find the local deity a bit jealous of other Gods being exclusively worshipped within his territory. There are not a few foreigners in this country who, while they are regular church-goers, are none the less interested in honoring the local Shinto shrine, making customary contributions and otherwise discharging their obligations in common with their fellow-parishioners especially in keeping annual festivals and traditional customs connected with the shrine, and these people seem to get on as well as the native inhabitants in every detail of daily life.

We know also of contrary examples. There used to be an American newspaperman who lived in Tokyo for over ten years, leading a hotel life in the latter part of his sojourn. A Japanese friend once advised him to comform in some measure to the native style of living if he meant to stay long. "If you go on living in a foreign-style hotel in this country, you will die," he warned the American. Tourists may of course lead a hotel life because their stay is short and they may take things easy, but when a man has regular or strenuous work to do, he cannot long persist in living as a stranger in a strange land without paying a penalty in the long run. That was his friend's advice, and his prophecy, uttered more in jest than in earnest, proved true as the American died soon after it at a comparatively young age.

One may indeed thrive for a while even in a submarine compartment upon stale air and canned food, but sooner or later he will have to return to the soil, if he wishes to thrive in this terrestrial world, and obey the voice of the local guardian deity. Whatever spot fit to live is protected by the tutalary God of that spot, and as you will worship the Tenshin (heavenly deity) according to your faith, so must you also honor the Chigi or the spirit of the earth on which you build your home.

Family Crests

The same amalgamating, fraternizing and assimilating capacity of the Japanese may also be seen in the development of Mon or family-crest worn by every Japanese on his ceremonial dress or family heirlooms, painted, printed or embroidered. It was originally a pictorial or geometrical symbol borne on the flag or on the tent of the warrior to show his position or camp in the battlefield; so it was aristocratic in character. As the members of his family multiplied, so did the number of those bearing the same Mon. Their number further increased as common soldiers rendering distinguishing services in the battle received the honor of bearing the same Mon as their master's, as soldiers and officials today receive titles and decorations. The number of Mon now used is counted by the thousands but far from corresponding to the number of families there are, so that the majority share common crests, tracing their origin to common blood relations or to the ties of master and vassal.

The identity of Mon and the community of local shrines have combined with other factors in cementing the people, as it were, longitudinally and horizontally, thereby promoting the general spirit of ancestor-worship, love of the land and loyalty and patriotism, constantly melting the diverse elements into the one homogeneous family of Japanese people. The process will go on as long as Japan exists.

The class distinctions may remain as the differences of vocation must remain, but they are like the variations within a unity or the individualities in a family. They are not inconsistent with the oneness of race and nationality of the Japanese—a phenomenon which is duplicated in no other civilized country in the world.

Germany which boasts the greatest racial homogenuity in Europe, yet contains millions of foreigners within its borders. As for the others, say France and England, they are ethnolographically patchwork mosaics. The English are more closely related to the Dutch and the Normans living under separate governments than to the Welsh within their own borders, and the French are much nearer to the Teutons beyond the Rhine with whom they are in chronic warfare than to the Bretons and Basques in their own territory. In Japan, however, though one may find traces of the original mix-up, further borne out by many family names of foreign origins like Hata, Hattori and numerous others, there is hardly a shade of difference to disturb the perfect unity of race and nationality prevailing over all. This total Japanese unity is not merely racial, political, linguistic but humanitarian and idealistic. Yes, there is something in the genius of the land itself which assimilates all the alien or extraneous elements into a uniform type of Japanese.

Therefore anyone who will study the influence which foreign thought or culture has exerted on the native character will have to take into consideration this all-powerful influence of the soil. More intimately than in any other region are the people and the soil of these isles united with a mystic bond of sympathy. If our enemy the Americans want to Yankify the Japanese or to extirpate the Japanese from the earth they will have to liquidate all the Japanese islands, or plunge them beneath the waves of the Pacific.

CULTURAL AFFINITY BINDS JAPAN AND PHILIPPINES

Two Nations Also Linked by Solid Ties of Geographical Propinquity

By GREGORIO F. ZAIDE

Since protohistoric ages Japan and the Philippines have been inextricably linked by solid ties of geographical propinquity, ethnic kinship, cultural affinity, and historic association.

Geographically, Japanese and Filipinos are kapit-bahay (next-door neighbors); as their respective countries are adjacent to each other and are both oceanic fragments of Asia. Ethnically, they are fellow-Asians, being of Asian ancestry and are both invigorated by Malay blood. It is said that there are about 25 percent Malay blood in the Japanese and 40 percent in the Filipinos. Culturally, both peoples have a basic Oriental civilization and possess identical cultural characteristics as evinced in the similarities of their folklore, family life, customs, beliefs, proverbs, and music. Both have imbibed Western civilizational influences, but while the Japanese have had the foresight to assimilate the best elements of Occidental culture and preserve their Oriental heritage, the Filipinos have absorbed too much of the exotic influences and had almost bartered away their Oriental soul for the dazzling trappings of Occidental civilization.

The early relations between Japan and the Philippines are of prehistoric origin and they antedate the advent of the white men in the Orient. According to Nihon Syoki, one of Japan's ancient chronicles, in the year 654 A.D. "two men and two women of the land of Tukhara" drifted to the shore of Hiuga, Kyushu In the opinion of some scholars, Tukhara (Tokara or Tokwara) is a corruption of "Tagala," hence it refers to the Philippines.

The historicity of this event is strengthened by the geographical position of the Philippines in relation with Japan and by the existence of the equitorial Kuro Sio (Black Current) which washes the shores of both countries. There were tangible proofs of Philippine vessels blown by storm or current to Japanese shores and of Japanese crafts to Philippine coasts. In 1596 the Manila galleon San Felipe was buffeted by a typhoon to Tosa while en route to Mexico; in 1753 fifteen Japanese drifted in a boat to Cagayan; and in 1842 the Japanese vessel Kannon Maru was driven by the ocean current from Northern Japan to Samar.

As early as the 13th century of the Christian Era, when the adventurous Japanese wako (buccaneers) roamed the seas from Kyushu to China and the South Seas, there was already economic relations between Japan and the Philippines. About this time, according to old historical records, Japanese merchants from the Ryukyu region traded with the Filipinos. It is a fact that Luzon had been known to the Japanese long before Magellan was born and, according to the French Orientalist Comte Montblanc, they called the island Ru-san after a Chinese term Liu-sung. The ancient Japan-Philippine trade relations flourished in the course of time. Old historical sources attest that Japanese trading vessels visited the Philippines every year and that the Filipinos also made trading voyages to China and Japan.

II

The first Spanish colonizers saw the lucrative trade of the Filipinos with Japan and this was reported to King Philip II of Spain by Legaspi in 1567 and 1570, by Captain Artieda in 1573, by Santiago de Vera in 1587, and by Bishop Salazar in 1588. Speaking of Japan-Philippine trade intercourse during the early years of the Spanish regime, Dr Morga recounted that Japanese merchants from Nagasaki arrived in Manila every year about May or October, bringing excellent wheat-flour, salt meats, gold-lacquer wares, fresh fruits, singing birds, fans, paper, cutlery, and other Japanese exports, and their vessels returned to Nagasaki in June or July, loaded with gold, silk, deer-skins, wines, honey, earthern jars, and other Philippine and Spanish exports. Of the Philippine commodities, the earthern jar was highly treasured by the Japanese traders for this jar was in great demand in Japan as a peerless receptacle for tea.

In 1584 the first Spanish merchant ship from Manila traded with the port of Hirado, Kyushu, Subsequently, Spanish ships called at Nagasaki and exchanged products with the Japanese. Many Japanese traders made periodic trips to Manila where they became prominent among Filipinos and Spaniards. Among them were Magositiro Harada, who had started his commercial enterprises in Manila in 1570; Sukezaemon Naya, who in July 1594 presented Hideyosi with 50 jars and other precious Luzon goods; Magozaemon Sueyosi, who visited the Philippines annually from 1604 to 1611; and Zuimon Itoya, who made 24 trips to Luzon during the 17th century. The last named trader became a well-known authority in Japan on Philippine affairs and it was he who was first granted the famous "Red Seal" permit issued by the Tokugawa Shogunate to Japanese ships engaged in foreign commerce.

(To Be Continued)

Vortrag O.A.G.
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17 Uhr

Dr. C. von Weegmann: Der japanische Farbenholzschnitt nach Harunobu in seinen Beziehungen zur Zeitgeschichte.

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TOKYO, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1945

Turkey's Loss of Independence

Turkey's declaration of war against Japan and Germany last Friday in effect marks the end of Turkey as an independent Power. For, according to Foreign Minister Hassan Bey Saka himself, the action was taken not in accordance with Turkey's own desire but solely in abject capitulation to Anglo-American dictation. No country can be considered independent which does not have the power to determine its own course of action of its own free will; and Turkey, by submitting weakly to the dictates of others, has forfeited her right to be regarded as an independent nation.

Lamely attempting to excuse his country's shameful conduct, the Turkish Foreign Minister explained to the Grand National Assembly that the British Ambassador had served warning that unless Turkey declared war upon the Axis Powers by March 1, she would not be invited to the conference of the "United Nations" to be held in San Francisco on April 25. Thereupon the Turkish National Assembly voted to comply, casting aside dignity, honor, and independence to scramble belatedly for a place on the United Nations bandwagon.

Even an enemy is deserving of some respect if he acts out of sincere conviction in his cause, mistaken though that cause may be. But a nation which would cravenly draw the sword upon those against whom it has no grievance, merely to curry the favor of a coercing bully, deserves not even hatred but only contempt. To such a low state has Turkey fallen.

The ignominy of Turkey is all the more glaring in contrast to her earlier stand. Well does Turkey know at heart that her real interests can best be served by avoiding entanglement in a war which does not directly concern her. How well she understands this fact is to be seen in the strenuous efforts which former Foreign Minister Numan Menemencioglu so long exerted to preserve the blessings of neutrality. His eventual ousting followed by the rupture of diplomatic relations with Germany and Japan indicated the gradual weakening of Turkey before the pressure of temporary expediency. Now she has gone the whole way, succumbing to the temptation of an illusory immediate advantage at the expense of her real ultimate interests. Kemal Pasha, who worked so hard to make of Turkey a great nation, must weep in his grave to see the object of his devotion selling its birthright for a mess of pottage.

Turkey, to be sure, is not the only country which has taken this action within the last few days. Paraguay, Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela, and Uruguay have acted similarly. Still others will probably follow. But these are insignificant countries which have never been more than mere puppets or virtual protectorates. Always dependent for their livelihood on the caprice of their colossal neighbor, they might well be expected to act like jackals scrambling for the leavings of the greater beasts of prey. But for Turkey to join this pack is a disillusioning disclosure of how empty were her pretensions of being a self-respecting independent Power.

Stettinius' Mexico City Speech

The close connection which the United States conceives between the recent Crimea Conference and the Pan-American Foreign Ministers' Conference now meeting in Mexico City was clearly indicated by the United States Secretary of State Edward Stettinius in his speech before the latter body last Thursday. There can be no question that the United States regards both conferences as instruments for the advancement of her own special aim, which is the extension of her hegemony over all the world.

It is true that most of the substantial advantages accruing from the Crimea Conference went to the Soviet Union rather than to the United States, but at least in the theoretical statement of general principles and particularly in the decision to hold a "United Nations" conference for a world security organization at San Francisco in April, the United States managed to extract from the Crimea Conference provisions which she hopes to utilize to her own advantage. Fresh from this conquest, the United States plans through the Pan-American Foreign Ministers' Conference to fit the Latin American countries tightly into the pattern of her wider design for the whole world. That was in fact what Stettinius virtually announced in his speech.

Outwardly the five points which Stettinius listed as the objectives of the United States and which he called upon the Latin American nations to support sound like the most beautiful idealism. "The right of every nation to develop free institutions according to its desires"; "all nations are equal before the law and the equal rights of all nations, large and small, must be upheld"; and "a peace which will afford assurance that all the peoples in all of the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want", certainly represent concepts which all of the Latin American nations must applaud, although it is not hard to imagine how ironic it must have seemed to the Latin American delegates to hear these phrases coming from the lips of the representative of the country which has constantly violated every one of these ideas in its domineering attitude toward its weaker neighbors to the south.

Even more ironic must it have seemed when Stettinius stated that these principles were common to both the "Good Neighbor" Policy of the United States and to the Dumbarton Oaks proposal endorsed by the Crimea Conference in that they are designed to prevent "lawless power politics." For well do the Latin Americans know from bitter experience that the "Good Neighbor" Policy is a notoriously hypocritical cloak under which the United States' policy of power politics operates in the Western Hemisphere, and well must they know that the Crimea Conference was a clearing house for the sordid power politics deals of the European Continent. The Latin Americans must well understand, therefore, that Stettinius' call for Latin American support for the Dumbarton Oaks scheme at the coming San Francisco Conference means the strengthening of the United States' power politics in the Americas through integration with her wider power politics in the general world arena. Not only is United States power to be more firmly clamped upon Latin America through the incorporation of the Americas into the larger world power pattern, but the Pan-American power unit is to be manipulated as a single solidly-welded instrument by the United States in her operations on the world stage.

This meaning was made unmistakeably clear when Stettinius stated that the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, which he called upon the Latin American countries to support, "are designed . . . to aid the power of the great nations in the interest of the peace and freedom of all nations". That "peace and freedom" is to be imposed "by force if necessary", which means only an arrangement dictated by the sole authority of a nation like the United States which commands overwhelming military force. In other words, the smaller nations are being called upon to support and acquiesce in a rule of force over the whole world by a dominating military Power. At the Crimea Conference the United States made only a partially successful bid to become that dominating Power. The Mexico City Conference she envisages as a means of regimenting Latin American support to strengthen her bid.

Good Stuff

"Nice frock you're wearing?"

"Yes. Do you like it?" I had it for my twentieth birthday."

"Really! It's worn well."

SYMBOL OF NEW CHINA

East Asia's Revival Was Life Ideal Of Great Patriot

By SHIGEO MIURA

I

It is my firm belief that though the "everlastingly youthful Wang Ching-wei" is gone from the stage of East Asia, his rich personality and gentle nature will live forever. The great spirit of resurging of Greater East Asia, like a mountain, will stand guardian to the followers of his footsteps.

When I met President Wang Ching-wei in his official residence on the Chin Ho Road, northwest of Nanking, it was the previous afternoon of the Double-Tenth Anniversary in 1942. I went up there with a colleague to bid him farewell on my transfer to the main office at Tokyo.

My thought drifts back to the scene of two years ago in which I was welcomed by President Wang. It was the year previous to the Nanking Government's participation in the war. The autumnal sun was shining on his face. His words come back to me very clearly now. He said: "There are only two ways open to us. One is the way of the fellow-thinkers of East Asia, and the other that of the betrayer of East Asia."

What he meant to say was that Chungking had sought which was contrary to the cause of East Asia. To him there was no other way but the way of the fellow-thinkers of East Asia, the just and right way. He explained further with much emphasis:

"If the Anglo-Americans should win this war, what would become of East Asia? With the exception of Japan, there is no other naval Power in East Asia. Should Japan be defeated, China would most certainly become another India. East Asia would be placed under the tyranny of the Anglo-Americans. And yet Chungking has no word to say to this. So it is up to us to assist Japan in the prosecution of this war. When China fulfils her obligation in this respect, her future security will be a certainty."

This was a reiteration of Sun Yet-sen's faith of Pan-Asianism, which controlled Wang Ching-wei's thought throughout his life. It became an Oriental conception with him, that is to live and to die with the peoples of Greater East Asia. This was the reason that compelled him to quit Chungking, and subsequently to set up a legitimate government at Nanking under the banner of peace and salvation of the Chinese Republic. The climax of all this was Nanking's declaration of war against the Anglo-Americans in January, 1943.

Admired Wang

For me who had watched his peace and salvation movement from the start while I was in China, Wang Ching-wei was a great inspiration. So inspired were we Japanese newspaper men that we could not but express our admiration. Upon our departure the President said thus: "Our hearts are one whether we are at Nanking or at Tokyo. I wish that you would exert your all for the victory of Greater East Asia and the construction of new China." With these words, he shook our hands and saw us to the front porch.

I can say that sincerity, trustworthiness and politeness were characteristics of his personality. He ever accorded a mere newspaperman the cordiality that would ordinarily be reserved for higher ranking persons. A great statesman he was, and he had the heart of gold. Little did he seek pleasure and glory for himself alone; he wanted to share the vicissitudes and happiness with his people.

Wang Ching-wei's personality was also reflected in his political programs. Disdaining the unscrupulous policies of past Chinese warlords, Wang Ching-wei substituted morality for power and sincerity for political tactics. In view of this fact, he was not unlike Sun Yat-sen. It is no wonder that he came to be regarded as the rightful successor to Sun Yat-sen. But whereas Sun Yat-sen passed away while his work was still incomplete, Wang Ching-wei left behind him a great record of monumental achievements.

This can be seen from the fact that while Sun Yat-sen stood for Pan-Asianism and Three People's Principles, Wang put them into concrete shape. He put those principles on the right track. Particularly is this true of Sun's fond dreams to realize the abolition of unequal treaties, a matter which he did not forget even on his death bed. All this has been realized since Wang Ching-wei got in power. Not only that, but the fact that China is lined up now with Japan in the fight to eradicate Anglo-American imperialism from East Asia should console the spirit of the great Father of the Chinese Republic.

Formerly Wang Ching-wei was regarded a political opportunist. This could not be helped because of the conditions which prevailed in those days. Since the days of Tung Ming Hwei (the Chinese Revolution League), his relations with Hu Hanmin were not consistent, and after the death of the latter, he collaborated sometimes with, and other times opposed Chiang Kai-shek. And furthermore in his ideology he was at one time pro-Communistic, and at another anti-Communistic. But these may be passed away as inevitable. In his relationships with Chiang Kai-shek, there was not a single instance in which he permitted any compromise of his principles.

(To Be Concluded)

AMERICAN INTERVENTIONISM AND SINO-JAPANESE COLLABORATION

By JAPONICUS

II

"The character of that war, combined with the geographical position, requires the United States to take the 'offensive,' and place Japan on the 'defensive,' strategically.

According to Millard, two factors should exist if America was to win the war. The first factor was the complate control of the seas, and the second factor was the existence of allies on the mainland of Asia. In respect to the latter he said: "China will be the decisive factor in a war between Japan and America about policy in the Far East. It is from China that Japan must, in a prolonged war, draw largely for supplies. If this source of supply is stopped, Japan in the end will lose the war." . . . "The effective strategy for the United States in a war commenced under those conditions is to attempt to draw a ring around Japan and gradually to tighten its pressure until Japan yields. This requires that China and Russia be brought into the war as allies of the United States."

In other words, his view was that America should win China and if possible Russia as her allies in the event of an American war against Japan. This implied that when America succeeded in winning China as an ally, it was then time that America might challenge Japan to fight.

He mentioned three methods for America to "pursue a course calculated to bring China and Russia, and eventually Korea, into the war as allies of the U.S.A.:

1. Intelligence Work
2. Propaganda
3. Economic Bearing

Regarding intelligence work, he was of opinion that in the event of Japan's waging a war, she would have to violate neutrality, and "this act of Japan also could be used by American propaganda as showing the unscrupulousness of Japan, and comparisons can be made with Germany's invasion of Belgium and Luxemburg." At the same time America should organize an intelligence organization in China. She should organize 8,000 Americans, mostly missionaries, who were distributed throughout China, spoke Chinese and had friends. America should also establish liaison with leading Chinese officials, with a view to aligning them with America in sympathy and interest. He added in italics: "The intelligence division should be provided with ample funds."

As for propaganda he stated that it should be directed and conducted, as far as feasible, by men who are experienced in local conditions, prejudices, and personalities, currents of opinion and thought, and avenues and means of communications. For this purpose they should organize and deliver telegraph news services in several languages, subsidize newspapers, establish outright or purchase newspapers. He did not forget to add: "The propaganda division also should have ample funds."

The above is a summary of Millard's thesis, which represented the opinion of American experts in East Asia. In "Conflict of Policies in Asia" Millard says, "As these opinions constantly were being communicated to the Government at Washington by and through its officials in the Far East, they made in time an impression."

III

Constant maneuvering by Western Powers to prevent Sino-Japanese cooperation has thus been going on. It has been noted that the American policy has also been directed toward an estrangement of the two East Asian brothers. From the American standpoint, her policy was not unnatural, so long as international politics is conceived of solely in terms of power-politics. She naturally must have calculated that Sino-Japanese collaboration meant a decrease of American political influence in East Asia. She must, therefore, have noticed signs of such danger in the China policy actually pursued by Japan's statesmen toward realizing an alliance between Japan and China. Let us here review a few episodes elucidating the attitude of some prominent Meiji and Taisho statesmen.

In 1874 Okubo Toshimichi proceeded to Peking in connection with the so-called Formosa incident. This was sometimes interpreted by the Chinese as an aggressive move on the part of Japan. But Li Hung-Chang, a statesman with a clear perspective, knew perfectly well that small Japan, just awakening from her long feudal slumber, could hardly have any power or intention to harbor aggressive designs on a colossal Empire like China. On November 3 Okubo and Li met at Tientsin. It was Li who expressed satisfaction with the settlement of the incident. According to Retsu Kiyosawa's monograph on "Okubo as a Diplomat" some such conversation passed between the two statesmen.

Li: "As your country and mine are bound to stand or fall together, shouldn't we consolidate our friendly relations?"

Okubo: "I quite agree. Let bygones be bygones, or rather let the incident be a blessing in disguise for both of us.

Li: "I'll leave your country to your Excellency, and mine will look after itself. Things can't be done thoroughly unless left to one man."

Okubo: "I agree. If we cooperate wholeheartedly I am confident the day will come when the Asiatic nations will be mistresses of their own houses."

Li: "Appropos of the Formosa incident, European Powers criticized Japan's action on various grounds and sold a lot of guns and ammunitions to us."

Okubo: "We have to be on our guard."

Okubo and Li then compared notes on the number of steamers and the amount of coal and copper in the two countries, and they exchanged views on the ways and means of Sino-Japanese economic cooperation. After his return to Tokyo Okubo tried his best to promote cordial relations between Japan and China. He proposed to the government that out of the 500,000 tael indemnity received from China, 100,000 tael be allotted for the relief of the sufferers and the balance be refunded to China. Considering that popularization of the Chinese language was the surest way for the Japanese to truly understand China, he undertook to establish a Chinese language school in Tokyo. Due to Okubo's death in 1878, however, his ideas failed to materialize.

Despite Okubo's demise the China policy he had in mind survived him. In 1882 a revolt broke out in Seoul, Korea. Lieutenant Horimoto and seven other men were massacred, the Japanese legation was attacked and Minister Hanabusa and 28 members of his staff barely escaped. At the Korean request for reinforcements, Li Hung-chang dispatched Chinese forces to Seoul. The Korean problem thus developed into a Chinese problem. Regarding steps to be taken, Foreign Minister Inouye solicited the advice of Iwakura, "Minister of the Left," the most influential statesman of the day. Iwakura, emphasizing that Japan and China must endeavor to avoid a conflict, stated:

"Unless our two countries closely collaborate to solidify the banks for the defense of our independence, it will hardly be possible for us to check the wild currents of Western encroachment. If we should allow a trivial Korean problem to develop into a major conflict between Japan and China, we should have everything to lose and nothing to gain. It would only result in affording European merchants an opportunity to profit by the sale of ships and arms."

He also opined that, if Japan should assist Korean independence by supplying arms to her, it would strengthen the suspicions of the Chinese and jeopardize Sino-Japanese amity. He further said:

"If things come to such a pass, the two countries will come to nurse rancour against each other, which will lead sooner or later to an armed conflict. They would remain enemies for generations, which will throw all Asia into chaos."

That Foreign Minister Inouye shared exactly the same opinion is clear from a statement of his Korean and Chinese policy which he communicated in November of the same year to Hirobumi Ito who was then sojourning in Europe. Inouye was firmly convinced that the only fortress impregnable against Western aggression was close cooperation between Japan, China and Korea. It was against the background of this fundamental policy that one can elucidate Japan's amazing patience shown during the Korean incidents of 1882 and 1884.

The same policy was further evinced at the time of a Korean incident in the shape of a Sino-Japanese Political Agreement which was concluded in April, 1885 between Hirobumi Ito and Li Hung-chang. It was stipulated that Japanese and Chinese forces in Korea should be withdrawn, that Japan and China should not dispatch military instructors to Korea, and that if it should become necessary to dispatch forces, Japan and China should consult each other by an exchange of correspondence, and upon restoration of peace immediately withdraw forces.

Only when one bears in mind this attitude of Japanese statesmen, can one fully appreciate P. J. Treat's well-considered judgment on the Sino-Japanese War, that despite the belief in some quarters that Japan interfered in Korea with a view to controlling her, there was nothing in Japan's action which could support such a belief.

Strange as it may seem to some observers, the same China policy was stoutly supported by Field Marshal Aritomo Yamagata, who was generally regarded as a leading Japanese "militarist." He states his views in his interview with Premier Okuma at the time of Japan's declaration of war against Germany in 1914. He further submitted to the government a written memorandum in which he states:

"Some seem to over-estimate the military strength of Japan and contend that she should carry out her policy by exercising pressure on China. But human affairs are not so simple as to be determined by physical force alone. The one thing needful for Japan to do at the present time is to readjust Sino-Japanese relations so as to inspire implicit confidence in Japan."

At a conference of elder statesmen and Cabinet ministers held on May 4, 1914 at the Premier's official residence Yamagata raised strong objection to the so-called twenty-one demands, especially the ultimatum part. He asserted that Foreign Minister Kato should himself proceed to Peking, and endeavor to "create an impression that Japan's action was reasonable, inspire confidence in Japan's bona fides and make manifest to the world that Japan's conscience was clear. If the Foreign Minister himself went to China as ambassador, and could enlighten President Yuan Hsi-kai on the current trend of world affairs and apprise him of Japan's real intention, then Yuan Hsi-kai would come to understand our intention. Yamagata's view was shared by other elder statesmen. Article I of the decisions reached at a conference between the elder statesmen and the Premier on September 24 runs as follows:

"The fundamental policy shall be to sweep away once and for all the distrust and suspicion of Japan entertained by Yuan Hsi-kai and the Chinese generally, and to prompt China to place confidence in Japan."

It is regrettable indeed that despite all these efforts by Japan's far-sighted statesmen, China and Japan behaved in such a way as to fall a victim to America's estrangement policy.

IV

The American Far Eastern policy which was a baby with no teeth has now grown up into a Goliath. The Goliath's gum is lined with gigantic war machines,—land, sea and air forces. The inborn intermeddling predisposition which has characterized American East Asian policy is now manifested in her world policy. Her tentacles are stretched out to India, West Asia, Africa, and into the hotch-potch of European politics, Washington's "buggy-and-horse" admonitions having been brusquely set aside. It may also be noticed that the shape of American East Asian policy itself is witnessing a remarkable change. General Joseph Stilwell's rather ill-timed and ill-lucked political activities in Chungking, Donald Nelson's revealing Report to President Roosevelt on industrialization of China, and many other signs combine to indicate that the American policy is now not directed toward the Open Door but toward Monopoly. Its objective is the conversion of the whole of China into an exclusive American sphere of influence, ultimately, to Indiafy China.

Present-day Japan is not the Japan of the days of Iwakura and Date cowered by De Long's preposterous demands. Japan has now courageously taken up the gloves for self-defense and for the freedom of Asia. She is playing the part of David.

Despite the basic change in East Asian political situation, Chungking is still following the same old path by seeking Goliath's assistance to thittle David. Chungking leaders seem now not unaware that the so-called "assistance" will surely lead to China's enslavement. They seem to feel helpless as if under the firm grip of destiny. It is to be hoped that the two nations will realize before it is too late that the political wisdom which has characterized the conversation between Li Hung-chang and Okubo, and the policy entertained by Iwakura, Inouye, Ito and Yamagata, which was also evinced in Sun Yat-sen's famous Kobe address and which is now embodied in the current Sino-Japanese Treaty of Alliance, points the true road to the deliverance and rebirth of China as well as of East Asia as a whole.

(End)

Unkind

He was arguing with great fervor against corporal punishment for boys, which, he declared never did any good.

"Take my own case," he cried, "I was canned only once in all my life and that was for speaking the truth."

"Well," retorted someone in the audience, "It certainly cured you."

Slight Recollection

An enthusiastic golfer came home to dinner. During the meal, his wife said: "Our son tells me he caddied for you this afternoon."

"Well, do you know," said father, "I thought I'd seen that boy before."

Celestial Bliss

Child: "Mother, was baby sent down from heaven?"

Mother: "Yes, Bobby."

Child: "They like to have it quiet up there, don't they?"

U.S. ECONOMY: A SELF-CONTRADICTION

American High Tariff Policy and British Empire's Decision to Close Its Markets Brought on World Chaos

By KAORU HARA

VI

The second important factor which makes the world's return to free economy difficult is the general trend of world economy. In this connection, due note must be taken of the fact that economy today is vastly different in its character and aspects from the economy of the nineteenth century.

Free economy was possible in the nineteenth century because the technical progress following the industrial revolution had the beneficial effect of increasing the wealth of the world, on the one hand, and of promoting the international division of work and the movement of capital, on the other, and also because there prevailed a general faith in freedom in trade and laissez faire in economy as the guiding economic principles. The first World War brought revolutionary changes in the economy of the world, however. The great expansion of productive power and the rapid growth of industries of the same kind in various nations during the war caused surplus production and industrial competition and rendered free trade based on the international division of work impossible. This led to higher tariffs and trade restrictions. Moreover, inflation was stimulated by the postwar financial difficulties and changes in the international accounts culminating in monetary and foreign exchange chaos. This impeded trade and international investments, while disequilibrium in the international accounts was aggravated by the withdrawal of short-term loans and the flight of capital. In this way, the gold standard finally went by the board and mass unemployment resulted.

Exchange Control

As a consequence of the collapse of the international division of work and the gold standard, which had organically correlated the economy of the world, all countries, eager to protect and adjust their respective economy, resorted to restrictive measures of exchange control and trade regulation for balancing their international accounts. Internally, they controlled and planned monetary and industrial activities in a variety of ways. Thus, there gradually developed in the world a general tendency toward planned economy. The broad-sphere economy, which generated in such an environment, is intended by over-populated countries which depend on trade for their existence to stabilize their economy and to safeguard their national security based on regionalism. And it must be remembered that the most cogent causes for stimulating this tendency in world economy were America's increase of her tariffs to twice the rate prevailing before the first World War and Britain's policy of closing her empire markets by preferential duties. Especially deleterious in its effects was America's protectionist commercial policy. This policy, coupled with her prohibition of immigration and her monetary policy, wrought complete havoc with the world economy and put hard pressure on all countries which depended on trade for their existence.

As already mentioned, the economic policies of America and Britain are chiefly responsible for depriving world economy today of various conditions necessary for the operation of free economy and for the trend toward regionalism and planned economy.

Will Affect Future Trend

This economic tendency is further spurred by the large defense requirements of the Powers in modern total warfare, and these requirements are destined to affect the future trend of world economy to a marked extent. The needs of modern warfare, which involves the consumption of vast quantities of materials and renders long-rang operations with aircraft possible, have already caused America to embark on the work of completing a very large-scale defense structure in the crafty manner which has already been described, and this American attitude is causing the Soviet Union to adopt strong measures of self-defense by acquiring important resources abroad and by gaining control over her neighboring countries. It is clearly from strategic motives that America is putting obstacles in the way of the Soviet Union's acquisition of an oil concessions in Iran. The Western European bloc sponsored by Britain is, economically speaking, designed as a move against America, and so far as its economic implications are concerned, it partakes of the character of a "sterling bloc," but, strategically, it is directed against the Soviet Union. That is to say, defense requirements are imparting the character of regionalism to the scope of economy.

A matter of ever more vital significance is the British and Soviet economic way of thinking which bids fair to clash with that of America. Britain abandoned economic liberalism in 1931, and while carrying on controlled economy at home since then, she has, in her external relations, been keeping her empire markets closed on the strength of preferentialism and monetary regionalism, and, further, by adopting the international cartel principle, she has been striving to restore the declined competitive power of her industries.

New Economic Theory

In furtherance of this policy, Keynes has actually developed a new economic theory. In view of the exhaustion of her national strength in the present war, it is more than probable that Britain will intensify this policy in the future. In her White Papers, she has already frequently stated her economic difficulties and published the outline of the economic policy which she intends to adopt, thereby insinuating, on the one hand, that she is not in a position to adopt the system of economic liberalism advocated by America and indicating, on the other, her firm determination to maintain the sterling bloc and protectionist policies she has hitherto been following. In the meantime, she is soliciting America's sympathetic support with a view toward making the best possible use of America's economic aid for the purpose of recovering her impaired fortunes and consolidating the British Empire.

It is self-evident that Britain's acquiescence in the American point of view will spell the speedy absorption of the British market by America, resulting in the decline of her industry and the collapse of the British Empire. She is, therefore, taxing her brains to frustrate the American scheme, and there is no disputing the fact that this British attitude is casting a gloom over the future of the American scheme.

Soviet Union's Economy

So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, hers is, needless to say, planned economy based on public ownership of capital and productive power. It is absolutely incompatible with capitalistic economy based on price economy. In the Soviet Union, production is so planned as to meet State requirements and trade is monopolized by the State as a means of promoting this plan. The principle of free economy is accordingly entirely inapplicable to Soviet industry and trade. Not only is it impossible for the Soviet Union to open her markets to foreign countries but she may at any time resort to dumpings if necessary to settle the trade balance. However, compared with Anglo-American economic relations, Soviet-American economic relations show no point of conflicting interests, and there are at the moment even indications of positive improvement, as America can dispose of her postwar surplus production by supplying the Soviet Union with those supplies which are needed in the reconstruction of Soviet territories. But in view of the self-sufficing character of Soviet economy and the gradual increase of the Soviet defense power, there is a possibility that public opinion in America may grow hostile toward the Soviet Union.

Others Are Chary

To sum up, although America is attempting to foist free competition and free economy on the world as the basis of democratic peace, the other countries of the world are evidently chary of supporting her proposal because, as her true motive is to develop her own capitalism and to gain economic hegemony over the world, her own economic policy contains elements which disturb the economic equilibrium of the world. Again, America's political and defense policies which aim at the establishment of her absolute rule over the world despite her professed devotion to the maintenance of international peace are reacting unfavorably on the world and are awakening many countries to the need of stronger self-defense. The result is that while simulating concurrence in the American point of view in order to utilize American economic power as long as possible, many countries are planning their economy according to their own lights or are striving to establish an autarchic system on the basis of regionalism, thus directing their course in a manner contrary to America's aim to establish economic liberalism. In other words, America's policy for world domination is proving the most serious obstacle which threatens to destroy the "order of freedom" which she herself advocates. Altogether, the prospect will be very slender for the establishment of democratic world peace based on the freedom of economy unless America becomes really sincere toward the cause of humanity and discards her brazen policy of dominating the world, politically and economically.

(End)